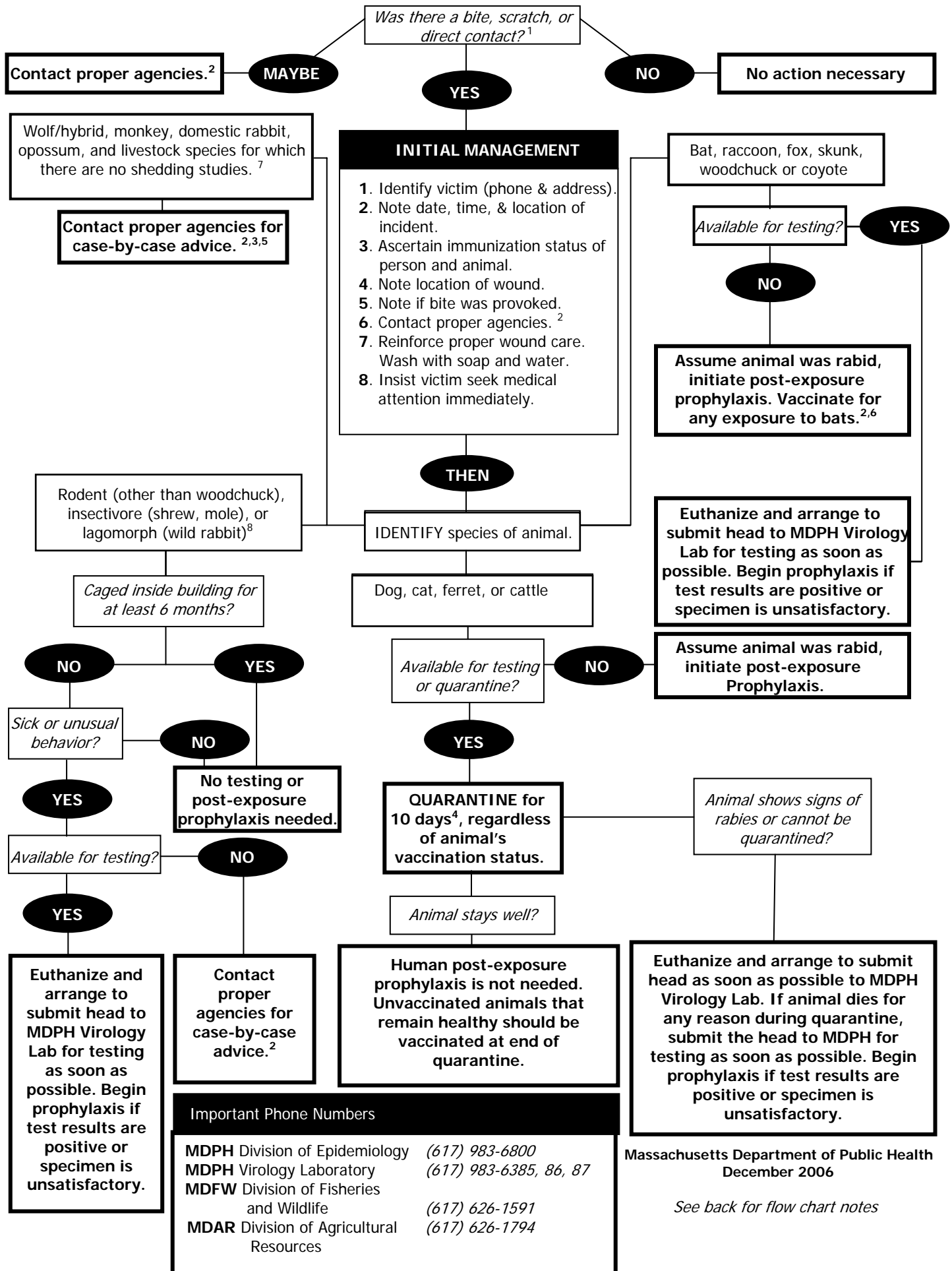


ATTACHMENT 2: Management of Human Exposure to Suspect Rabid Animals



RABIES FLOW CHART NOTES

1. Defined as a bite, scratch, or direct contact where there is contamination of a scratch, abrasion, mucous membrane, or open wound (one that has been bleeding in the past 24 hours) with potentially infectious material such as saliva or central nervous system tissue or fluid.
2. Contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Division of Epidemiology and Immunization for advice on human exposure. Domestic animal exposure should be reported to the local animal control official or the Massachusetts Division of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), Bureau of Animal Health and Dairy Services. Questions about wild animal exposures and ferret exposures should be addressed to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW).
3. Wolf/hybrids are considered unvaccinated despite vaccination history.
4. The type of quarantine will be determined by the local animal inspector. Questions about all domestic animal quarantines except ferrets should be addressed to the Bureau of Animal Health. Questions about ferret quarantines should be addressed to the MDFW.
5. Wild rabbits are at low risk for rabies, but rabbits caged outdoors are at greater risk. Bites by wild rabbits rarely warrant prophylaxis. However, a rabbit caged outdoors that bites a human should be tested for rabies.
6. Post-exposure prophylaxis should be given in any situation where a bat is physically present and a bite, or any other exposure/contact, cannot be ruled out. In situations which there is reasonable probability that such contact occurred (e.g. a sleeping individual awakes to find a bat in the room, an adult witnesses a bat in the room with a previously unattended child, person of diminished competence, intoxicated individual, etc.), post-exposure prophylaxis is appropriate even in the absence of a demonstrable bite or scratch.
7. If a person is bitten or otherwise exposed to the saliva of a wild animal or a domesticated animal for which there are no shedding studies, the animal may need to be euthanized and tested for rabies. Since the shedding period of rabies virus in such animals is unknown, a quarantine period (e.g., of two weeks) is not appropriate in the event that a person is bitten or otherwise exposed to the animal's saliva. Contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Division of Epidemiology and Immunization for advice on human exposures to these animals. In addition, exposures to these animals should also be reported to the local animal control official or the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR).
8. Although beavers and otters are rarely encountered by human beings, they represent a rabies risk closer to that posed by woodchucks than to the smaller mammals. If the animal is unavailable for testing, PEP should be considered.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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| MDPH, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization: | (617) 983-6800 |
| MDPH, State Laboratory Institute, Virology Laboratory: | (617) 983-6385, -6386, -6387 |
| MDFW, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife: | (617) 626-1591 |
| MDAR, Division of Agricultural Resources, Bureau of Animal Health and Dairy Services: | (617) 626-1794 |